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# Careless Talk by Contractors

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## *Dingell: U.S. Secrets Discussed at Golf Club*

United Press International

Super-secret Pentagon weapons systems are discussed by military contractors in "public restaurants, bars, theaters and on golf courses all over Washington," Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) has complained in an angry letter to Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger.

Not only could those conversations compromise national security, but the contractors bill the entertainment expenses to the Pentagon, Dingell said Thursday.

Dingell wrote that contractors "discussing the nation's secrets in public" are "daily occurrences."

Cost information and other details on secret, or "black," Pentagon weapons programs, such as the Air Force's Stealth bomber and advanced cruise missiles, are closely held Pentagon secrets—even from Congress.

With the letter, Dingell, chairman of a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on investigations and oversight, released enter-

tainment claims billed to the Air Force by an unidentified General Dynamics Corp. official.

The claims covered "business conferences" on secret weapons programs held at such places as the Kennedy Center theater in Washington and for dues at the Crystal City Country Club in Arlington.

Investigators from Dingell's panel have been looking into charges of fraudulent billing by contractors on secret weapons programs, but have run into repeated roadblocks in the Pentagon secrecy requirements.

Dingell said in his letter to Weinberger:

"While we can both feel secure about the staff of this subcommittee in handling this information, neither of us can have similar faith in the various waiters, bartenders, caddies and ushers who may overhear these discussions."

Spokesmen for the Air Force and General Dynamics said they had not seen the letter and could not comment.